

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office action dated January 20, 2006, in which claims 1, 3, 8-13, 16, 17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e); claims 2, 18, and 22 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e); and claims 4-7, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 23 were indicated as allowable when rewritten in independent form. The applicants are appreciative of the indicated allowability of these claims.

Drawing sheet 3 was objected to in the Office action due to a formality. The applicants herein submit a replacement drawing sheet 3 believed to resolve the indicated objection.

The applicants submit that claims 1-3, 8-13, 16-18, 21, and 22 are allowable, in light of the remarks herein.

### **SANNINO DOES NOT ANTICIPATE CLAIMS 1, 3, 8-13, 16, 17, OR 21**

Claims 1, 3, 8-13, 16, 17, and 21 were rejected under §102(e) due to Sannino et al. (U.S. patent 6,490,135, which has an inventor in common with the present application). However, with due respect, the applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 8-13, 16, 17, and 21 include features not taught or suggested by Sannino. As a particular example, claim 1 includes a first recessed pressurization surface, adapted to provide above-ambient fluid pressure when the slider is in nominal flight, which is greater than fluid pressure provided elsewhere on a trailing half of the aerodynamic surface at a substantial displacement from a longitudinal centerline of the aerodynamic surface; the first recessed pressurization surface being disposed on the aerodynamic surface at a recessed depth which is between the bearing height and the cavity depth. This subject matter is not taught or suggested by Sannino.

The rejection of claim 1 was based in part on waist portions 222 of Sannino purportedly anticipating a first recessed pressurization surface. However, the elements of claim 1 are substantially different from those of Sannino. Referring to waist portions 222, Sannino teaches that the recessed waist portions develop substantially ambient pressure during flight (e.g. col. 4, lines 33-36). This stands in significant contrast from the above-ambient fluid pressure the first recessed pressurization surface of claim 1 is adapted to provide. Furthermore, adjacent to the waist portions 222, toward the trailing edge, are trailing bearing surfaces 220, which have localized

positive pressure areas (e.g. col. 5, line 41). FIG. 3 clearly depicts trailing bearing surfaces 220 having a greater pressure than waist portions 222. Therefore, waist portions 222 are not adapted to provide above-ambient pressure when the slider is in nominal flight, which is greater than fluid pressure provided elsewhere on a trailing half of the aerodynamic surface at a substantial displacement from a longitudinal centerline of the aerodynamic surface. However, trailing bearing surfaces 220 are clearly bearing surfaces, and therefore are not disposed at a recessed depth which is between the bearing height and the cavity depth. The applicants submit that these distinctions are reflective of the genuinely novel and inventive nature of claim 1 over the cited references.

Therefore, Sannino discloses various features severally purported to suggest individual elements of claim 1, but Sannino does not disclose any features that teach or suggest, or are consistent with, the features defined by claim 1 of the present invention. Due at least to this illustrative reason, the applicants respectfully submit that Sannino does not teach or suggest claim 1, and request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3, 8-13, 16, and 17 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore are not anticipated by a reference if the reference does not anticipate their base claim. Due at least to their dependency on claim 1 and the novelty of claim 1 as demonstrated above, the applicants respectfully submit that Sannino does not teach or suggest any of claims 3, 8-13, 16, and 17, and request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 8-13, 16, and 17.

Claim 21 includes elements not disclosed or suggested by Sannino, similarly to the lack of disclosure of the elements of claim 1. As a particular example, Sannino does not disclose or suggest means disposed on the aerodynamic surface between the bearing height and the cavity depth, for providing above-ambient pressure when the slider is in a substantially nominal flying mode. Due at least to this illustrative reason, the applicants respectfully submit that Sannino does not teach or suggest claim 21, and request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 21.

#### **GRIFFIN DOES NOT ANTICIPATE CLAIMS 2, 18, OR 22**

Claims 2, 18, and 22 were rejected under §102(e) due to Griffin et al. (U.S. patent 6,501,621). However, with due respect, the applicants submit that claims 2, 18, and 22 include features not taught or suggested by Griffin. As a particular example, Griffin is characterized in the

Office action as teaching recessed pressurization surfaces which provide above-ambient fluid pressure when the slider is in nominal flight, which is greater than fluid pressure provided elsewhere on a trailing half of the aerodynamic surface at a substantial displacement from a longitudinal centerline of the aerodynamic surface, and the recessed pressurization surfaces being disposed on the aerodynamic surface at a recessed depth which is between the bearing height and the cavity height. However, Griffin, similarly to Sannino, teaches trailing bearing surfaces that provide above-ambient fluid pressure when the slider is in nominal flight which is greater than fluid pressure provided elsewhere on a trailing half of the aerodynamic surface at a substantial displacement from a longitudinal centerline of the aerodynamic surface, the trailing bearing surfaces being separate from and at a greater, bearing height relative to the ramps 114 and 118.

Due at least to this illustrative reason, the applicants respectfully submit that Griffin does not teach or suggest claims 2, 18, and 22, and request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 18, and 22.

**CLAIMS 4-7, 14, 15, 19, 20, AND 23 ARE IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE**

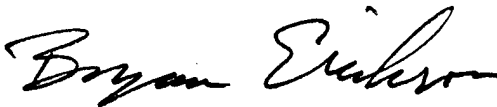
Claims 4-7, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 23 were indicated as allowable. The applicants submit that the base claims on which these claims are dependent are also allowable, and therefore that claims 4-7, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 23 are in condition for allowance in their current form, without amendment.

The applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-3, 8-13, 16-18, 21, and 22 be withdrawn and that claims 1-23 allowed.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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